

overwhelming victory and probably would have been closed in 1812. Wilson and Bryan at the present day are con- tending- for the proud preeminence of doing everything in their power in the last two years and a half to bring this nation to both impotence and infamy in its international relations—and Taft by his universal arbitration treaties and his Mexican policy ably paved the way for them. Wil- son is the one man now alive most responsible for present day unpreparedness."

On the same date, June 23, 1915, he wrote to his life-long friend Owen Wister:

" Your friend, the English pacifist, turned up. He seems an amiable, fuzzy-brained creature; but I could not resist telling him that I thought that in the first place English- men were better at home doing their duty just at present, and in the next place, as regards both Englishmen and Americans, that the prime duty now was not to talk about dim and rosy Utopias but, as regards both of them, to make up their minds to prepare against disaster and, as regards our nation, to quit making promises which we do not keep. Taft, second only to Wilson and Bryan, is the most dis- tinguished exponent of what is worst in our political char- acter at the present day as regards international affairs; and a universal peace league meeting which has him as its most prominent leader, is found on the whole to do mischief and not good.

"I was immensely pleased and amused with your last *Atlantic* article ('Quack Novels and

Democracy') and I
think it will do good. I wish you had included
Wilson when
you spoke of Bryan, and Pulitzer when you
spoke of Hearst.
Pulitzer and his successors have been on the
whole an even
greater detriment than Hearst, and Wilson is
considerably
more dangerous to the American people than
Bryan. I was
very glad to see you treat Thomas Jefferson as
you did.
Wilson is in his class. Bryan is not attractive
to the aver-
age college bred man; but *The Evening Post*,
Springfield
Republican, and *Atlantic Monthly* creatures,
who claim to